



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Evelyn Brennan Brown  
Executive Director  
Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists  
and Substance Abuse Professionals...804-662-9912  
Board of Psychology.....662-9913  
Board of Social Work.....662-9914

6606 West Broad Street, Forth Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23230-1717  
(804) 662-9900  
FAX (804) 662-9943  
TDD (804) 662-7197

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Constituents - Rehabilitation Provider Certification

**FROM:** Janet Delorme, Deputy Executive Director, Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Substance Abuse Professionals

**DATE:** October 1, 1997

**SUBJECT:** New Regulations

As indicated in the yellow Notice included with the application packages mailed to you several months ago, the Board has amended the *Regulations Governing the Certification of Rehabilitation Providers* to comply with changes in statute enacted by the 1997 General Assembly. The new emergency regulations (enclosed) took effect October 1, 1997 and will be in effect for one year, during which time the Board will publish notices and hold public hearings to establish the regulations on a long-term basis.

The new statute (attached) limits the requirement for certification to individuals whose services involve the exercise of *professional judgment*. Therefore, if the services you provide to workers' compensation claimants do not involve the exercise of professional judgment as defined in the law, you are not required to be certified as a rehabilitation provider.

The exemption for individuals licensed by the Boards of Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Psychology, Social Work, Licensed Professional Counselors Marriage and Family Therapists and Substance Abuse Professionals has not changed.

To be eligible for certification under the new regulations, you must hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university or a current Virginia R.N. license *plus* have 2,000 hours of supervised work experience (approximately one year full time) in the provision of rehabilitation services obtained within a five-year time period. Specifics of the supervision requirements are outlined in 18 VAC 115-40-26 and 18 VAC 115-40-27 of the enclosed regulations.

A new examination will be developed to test an applicant's knowledge and ability to exercise appropriate professional judgment in vocational rehabilitation. It is anticipated that the examination will be available in Spring, 1998. As provided in the previous regulations, if you currently hold a national certification in vocational rehabilitation, or if you became certified to provide vocational rehabilitation services in another state through requirements at least equivalent to those in the Board's current regulations, the board may waive the examination requirement.

The application packages have been revised to conform with the new regulations. If you need applications, or have questions, please contact the board office at 804/662-9912. Please do not use any application forms showing a revision date prior to October 1, 1997.

Hopefully, the frequently asked questions answered below will address some of your concerns.

**1. Who does not need this certification?**

- a. Anyone who does not provide rehabilitation services to Virginia workers' compensation claimants.
- b. Anyone who is licensed by the Boards of Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Psychology, Social Work, or Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Substance Abuse Professionals
- c. Anyone whose services do not involve the exercise of professional judgment.

**3. What kinds of services can I provide without the certification?**

You may perform general tasks related to vocational rehabilitation however, you may not make independent decisions that require professional judgment, such as determining what type of employment is suitable for a client. These determinations must be made by a supervisor who is certified as a rehabilitation provider, or licensed by one of the boards listed in (1).

**4. How is it possible to get the experience to become certified, if the law says I must be certified to provide the services?**

As explained under (3), you may perform vocational rehabilitation tasks, but your licensed or certified supervisor is responsible for making the assessments, determinations and decisions that require professional judgment.

**5. How long will it take for my certification to be issued?**

If you can document that you are eligible for a waiver of the examination requirement (i.e. if you hold a CRC, CDMS) you should receive your certification within one month of receipt of your application at the Board office.

If you are not eligible for endorsement, your application will be reviewed to determine your eligibility to take the examination. As explained above, a new examination is being developed to measure the ability of candidates to use professional judgment in the provision of rehabilitation services. This examination should be available in the spring of 1998.